



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDING OFFICER
USS TAYLOR (FFG 50)
FLEET POST OFFICE
AA 34093-1504

5750
Ser FFG 50/

From: Commanding Officer, USS TAYLOR (FFG 50)
To: Director, Navy Historical Center Washington Navy
Yard

Subj: CY 2012 COMMAND OPERATIONS REPORT ICO USS TAYLOR (FFG 50)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12J

1. Command Data

- a. Name of Command or Organization: USS TAYLOR (FFG 50)
- b. Unit Identification Code: 21231
- c. Name and Rank of Commander/Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge: CDR Dennis J. Volpe
- d. Date Assumed Command (YYYYMMDD): 20121115
- e. Mission/Command Employment/Area of Operations: The mission of USS TAYLOR (FFG 50) during 2012 was 5th Fleet/NATO Counter-Piracy Deployment.
- f. Permanent Location (Home Port): Naval Station Mayport, Florida.
- g. Immediate Superior In Command: COMDESRON FOURTEEN
- h. Assigned Task Force/Group/Unit name(s) and mission(s), OPLAN(s) and or named operations participated in during Task Force assignment:
 - (1) NATO Combined Task Force 508
 - (2) OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOR
 - (3) OPERATION OCEAN SHIELD
 - (4) OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM
- i. Name(s) of Forces, Commands, Ships, Squadrons or Units assigned or under your operational control (if applicable): N/A
- j. Type and number of Aircraft Assigned and Tail Codes:

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(1) 1 SH-60B "Venom 506"

k. Commands, Detachments or Units deployed on board or stationed aboard as tenant activities:

(1) HSL-48 "Barefoot Bandits"

1. Number of Personnel Assigned:

(1) Officers: 28

(2) Enlisted: 182

(3) Civilian: 0

m. Command Point of Contact:

(1) Name: LTJG (b) (6)

(2) Job Title/Office Code: Navigator

(3) E-mail: (b) (6)

(4) Phone number: (b) (6)

(5) Command Mailing Address: FPO AA 34093-1504

2. Commander's Assessment: The year 2012 was a very productive and rewarding year for the Officers and crew of USS TAYLOR (FFG 50). The crew worked extremely hard and continually reinforced a self-sufficient mindset throughout forward deployed operations. The PROUD DEFENDER maintained an impressive training and operational status throughout the entire calendar year and was always "on station, on time", and ready to shoot, move and communicate when required.

3. Chronology:

01 JAN - 27 JAN	HOLIDAY LEAVE/UPKEEP PERIOD
09 FEB	DEPART FOR FIFTH FLEET/STANDING NATO
	MARITIME GROUP-1 DEPLOYMENT
09 FEB	RAS WITH USNS LEWIS AND CLARK
14 FEB	INCHOP TO 6 TH FLEET/SNMG-1
18 FEB	BURIAL AT SEA
19 FEB	FUNCHAL BRIEF STOP FOR FUEL (BSF)
19 FEB - 25 FEB	NATO OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOR
21 FEB	STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR TRANSIT
25 FEB	RAS WITH USNS KANAWHA
25 FEB - 28 FEB	SOUDA BAY, CRETE PORT VISIT
29 FEB	PASSEX WITH FRENCH SUBMARINE S605 AMETHYSTE

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01 MAR	INCHOP TO FIFTH FLEET/SNMG-2/NATO TASK FORCE 508
01 MAR - 02 MAR	SUEZ CANAL TRANSIT
02 MAR - TBD	NATO OPERATION OCEAN SHIELD
02 MAR - TBD	OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM
06 MAR	RAS/VERTREP WITH USNS RICHARD E. BYRD
06 MAR - 16 MAR	NATIONAL TASKING/CTF 508
14 MAR	RAS/CONREP WITH USNS GUADALUPE
23 MAR	RAS/VERTREP WITH USNS RICHARD E. BYRD
28 MAR	RAS/VERTREP WITH USNS PECOS
01 APR	CPO BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
06 APR - 10 APR	SALALAH, OMAN PORT VISIT
10 APR - 12 APR	NATO MEDIA TEAM VISIT
11 APR - 18 APR	SOMALI BASIN PATROL
19 APR - 07 MAY	INTERNATIONALLY RECOMMENDED TRANSIT CORRIDOR (IRTC) PATROL
24 APR	VERTREP/RAS WITH USNS RAPPAHANNOCK
29 APR	RAS/CONREP WITH USNS RAPPAHANNOCK
09 MAY	SHELLBACK CEREMONY (00.00.05/50.00.0E)
11 MAY - 15 MAY	PORT VICTORIA, SEYCHELLES PORT VISIT
12 MAY	SHIP TOUR FOR 404 TH /409 TH AEG CDR
16 MAY - 11 JUN	INDIAN OCEAN/SOMALI BASIN/IRTC PATROL
21 MAY - 22 MAY	SOLAS EVENT WITH M/V NAHDA
22 MAY	RAS/VERTREP WITH USNS LARAMIE
26 MAY	RAS/VERTREP WITH USNS RAPPAHANNOCK
06 JUN	RAS/VERTREP WITH USNS RAPPAHANNOCK
11 JUN - 15 JUN	SALALAH, OMAN PORT VISIT
16 JUN - 10 JUL	IRTC PATROL
17 JUN	RAS/CONREP WITH USNS JOSHUA HUMPHRIES
18 JUN	SNMG-1/CTF508 SHIP VISIT
19 JUN	AMMO VERTREP WITH USNS CARL BRUSHEUR
20 JUN - 21 JUN	WORLD FOOD PROGRAM ESCORT DUTIES
25 JUN	RAS WITH USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS
26 JUN - 27 JUN	NORTHERN SOMALIA Coast ISR OPS
28 JUN - 10 JUL	IRTC PATROL
30 JUN	RAS WITH USNS LARAMIE
05 JUL	SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA EVENT WITH M/V AL FAHAD
05 JUL	RAS WITH USNS LARAMIE
12 JUL	RAS WITH USNS SUPPLY
13 JUL - 16 JUL	MUSCAT, OMAN PORT VISIT
17 JUL	RAS WITH USNS SUPPLY
19 JUL - 23 JUL	IRTC PATROL
23 JUL - 24 JUL	ISR OPS NORTHERN SOMALI COAST
25 JUL	RAS/VERTREP W/ USNS ROBERT E. PEARY
25 JUL - 30 JUL	IRTC PATROL
30 JUL	CO VISIT TO HNLMS EVERTSON
30 JUL	RAS/CONREP W/ USNS RAPPAHANNOCK
30 JUL - 02 AUG	ISR OPS NORTHERN SOMALI COAST
03 AUG - 04 AUG	IRTC PATROL

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05 AUG - 06 AUG	ISR OPS NORTHERN SOMALI COAST
07 AUG - 14 AUG	IRTC PATROL
09 AUG	CTF 508 VISIT
09 AUG	UNREP W/ CBR
15 AUG	UNREP W/ CBR
15 AUG	BAM TRANSIT
15 AUG - 18 AUG	RED SEA TRANSIT
19 AUG	SUEZ CANAL TRANSIT
20 AUG	RAS W/ JLN
24 AUG	STROG TRANSIT
24 AUG	ROTA BSF
27 AUG - 30 AUG	LAS PALMAS PVST
30 AUG - 06 SEP	ATLANTIC TRANSIT
03 SEP	INCHOP USFF
07 SEP	SAN JUAN BSF
10 SEP	HOME COMING
10 SEP - 08 OCT	POM LEAVE
10 SEP - 12 OCT	CMAV 2A3
09 OCT - 24 OCT	READ E2/3
15 OCT - 19 OCT	U/W JAX OPAREA
24 OCT - 02 NOV	U/W VACAPES OPAREA / HURRICANE SANDY SORTIE
26 OCT	RAS W/ USNS KANAWA
01 NOV	RAS W/ USNS PATUXTENT
05 NOV - 09 NOV	U/W JAX OPAREA
15 NOV	CHANGE OF COMMAND
19 NOV - 20 NOV	AMMO OFFLOAD
28 NOV	U/W JAXOPAREA DLQ/RLQ
29 NOV - 02 DEC	U/W IDCERTEX 13-2 OPFOR
02 DEC	RAS W/ USNS BIG HORN
04 DEC - 07 DEC	PORT EVERGLADES PVST
07 DEC - 08 DEC	SONAR SELF NOISE ASSESSMENT
08 DEC - 10 DEC	U/W JAXOPAREA DLQ/RLQ
11 DEC - 14 DEC	U/W IDCERTEX 13-2 OPFOR
12 DEC	RAS W/ USNS BIG HORN
17 DEC	U/W JAXOPAREA DLQ/RLQ
19 DEC - 20 DEC	AMMO OFFLOAD
21 DEC - 22 JAN	CMAV 3A1
22 DEC - 03 JAN	HOLIDAY LEAVE/UPKEEP PERIOD

4. Narrative:

USS TAYLOR (FFG 50) is one of 21 Oliver Hazard Perry (OHP) Class Frigates in the U.S. Navy's inventory. The OHP Frigate is a versatile platform designed to conduct multiple warfare areas including Submarine, Air, Surface Warfare, and Maritime Interception Operations. TAYLOR is 453 ft long, 45 feet at the beam, has a draft of 24 feet, displaces approximately 4100 tons, and has a crew of 193, including 28 Officers of which six are female, 17 Chief Petty Officers, and 165 enlisted Sailors.

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On 9 February, the time came for the TAYLOR crew to say good-bye to their families and begin the transit across the Atlantic Ocean to support Fifth and Sixth Fleet operational requirements.

Shortly after departing, the crew honored 17 departed Sailors and one departed spouse by committing their cremains to the sea in a Burial at Sea ceremony. The Commanding Officer presided over the ceremony and the Executive Officer committed the ashes to the sea of the following:

- Disbursing Clerk Third Class George S. Catoe III, USN;
- Airman Michael E. Rogers, USN;
- Chief Yeoman Richard L. Reynolds, USN;
- Ship's Serviceman First Class James W. Ruth, USN;
- Radioman First Class Raymond L. Giles, USN;
- Lieutenant Junior Grade Terry G. Miller, USN;
- Master Chief Yeoman William R. Schrader, USN;
- Merchant Mariner Herbert Hansen, USCG;
- Patricia P. Hansen, Sailor Spouse;
- Culinary Specialist Third Stanley M. Yacuk, USN;
- Electricians Mate Second Class Darrel W. Mohler, USN;
- Chief Boatswain Mate William J. Ryszykow, USN;
- Chief Musician Gary M. Underwood, USN;
- Chief Quartermaster Eldridge V. Felder SR, USN;
- Aerographers Mate First Class John R. Hilderman, USN;
- Evelyne L. Van Doren, Dependent Wife;
- Seaman Second Class Marvin L. Watson, USN;

Funchal, Portugal was the first stop on the deployment in order to conduct a Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF).

On 19 February, the ship began participating in NATO OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOR (OAE), which she participated in through 19 August. TAYLOR completed its Trans-Atlantic voyage by transiting the Strait of Gibraltar on 21 February. Once in the Mediterranean, in support of OAE, TAYLOR monitored shipping lanes and conducted maritime security patrols in the Western and Central Mediterranean.

TAYLOR moored in Souda Bay, Crete, 25 February to conduct maintenance, upkeep and scheduled liberty. Upon departing Souda Bay, TAYLOR headed West to conduct a PASSEX with French Submarine S605 Amethyste. TAYLOR then headed toward the Suez Canal and entered Egyptian Territorial Waters and subsequently transferred operational control from SIXTH Fleet to FIFTH Fleet on 1 March. Around 0200 on 2 March, TAYLOR arrived at the Pilot Pickup point just north of Port Said to begin the transit south. However, upon checking in Port Said control, due to poor weather conditions, TAYLOR was informed that there would not be a pilot embarking until once inside of the Canal. The crew safely

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brought TAYLOR into the Canal and began the 14-hour transit ending with Port Suez at the entrance to the Red Sea.

Once in the Red Sea, TAYLOR began her participation in NATO's OPERATION OCEAN SHIELD and OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM in support of FIFTH Fleet and NATO operational requirements. TAYLOR made her way South through the Red Sea, through the Bab el Mandeb Straits and into the Gulf of Aden in order to support Commander Task Force 508 Counter Piracy efforts in the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC). Shortly after arriving in the IRTC, TAYLOR received National tasking for a CNO priority passenger transfer with an SSGN, which would take her around the Horn of Africa to the southern coast of Somalia. Once the tasking was complete, TAYLOR assumed a northerly track towards the IRTC. On 11 March, while traveling north towards the IRTC TAYLOR conducted its first boarding of the deployment. Two days later, TAYLOR conducted her first Maritime Security Assist Visit (MSAV). Over the next two weeks while operating within the IRTC, TAYLOR provided security and presence for transiting commercial vessels while conducting boardings on the following dates:

- 12 March M/V al Kardi
- 13 March M/V al Kilar
- 19 March M/V Muhamadi
- 21 March M/V Hurida I
- 24 March M/V al Hafir
- 25 March M/V Shibam
- 26 March M/V al Hilal and M/V al Nasar
- 28 March M/V al Karim

During TAYLOR's time conducting maritime security patrols in the IRTC, TAYLOR conducted multiple boarding operations and did not allow a single piracy event to occur within her area of responsibility.

6-10 April was spent in port Salalah, Oman to provide the crew a chance to conduct upkeep and maintenance. Prior to leaving, TAYLOR embarked a media team to observe the daily shipboard routine onboard TAYLOR and document OPERATION OCEAN SHIELD. The following were embarked:

Al Arabiya (TV) (One reporter and one cameraperson) -
Nourredine Fridhi and his cameraperson Sabiha Safi;
The Guardian Newspaper (UK) - Nick Hopkins; MORGENAVISEN
Jyllands-Posten - Asger Westh. The media were transferred to
HDMS ABSALON (L16) on 12 April to continue their reporting.

TAYLOR was then tasked to proceed South from the IRTC to the coast of Somalia. While operating off the Somali coast TAYLOR conducted Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)

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on known pirate camps in order to develop pattern of life for follow-on Somali Basin operations. TAYLOR also performed the duties as the "pouncer", an assignment delineating TAYLOR as the ship to respond and close any pirated or suspected pirated boat in the event that they decided to leave their respective pirate camp.

On 19 April, with the monsoon season approaching in the southern Indian Ocean, the weather brought the monsoon's trademark increased seas and winds. As a result, the risk of piracy in the Somali Basin decreased and increased within the Gulf of Aden. It was determined that TAYLOR would be more valuable within the IRTC.

TAYLOR provided security and presence for transiting commercial vessels while conducting boardings on the following dates:

- 21 April M/V Shihir
- 26 April M/V al Boom Marine and M/V Hasweyn
- 27 April M/V al Almabrook II
- 05 May M/V al Namjim
- 06 May M/V al Zaim
- 18 May M/V Beyzar

Enroute to the Seychelles, TAYLOR was visited by Davy Jones on 9 May as TAYLOR crossed the Equator at 00.00.0S/050.00.0E. One hundred and twenty-four new shellbacks were inducted into the ancient order of the deep. Arriving in Port Victoria, Seychelles on 11 May, TAYLOR was able to conduct maintenance and preservation while allowing the crew liberty.

On 21 May while on patrol in the IRTC, TAYLOR's helicopter noticed an Yemeni type dhow stranded in the Gulf of Aden. TAYLOR's VBSS team conducted a boarding and determined, despite their best efforts, the dhow would need to be towed in order to ensure the safety of life at sea in the heavily transited IRTC. TAYLOR provided rations, water, and towing assistance to the dhow off the coast of Yemen. On 22 May TAYLOR turned M/V Nadah over to a rescue dhow for further assistance.

From 21 May to 11 June, TAYLOR patrolled the IRTC conducting the following approaches and boardings:

- 24 May M/V al Mutamayiz
- 29 May M/V Aqsa
- 30 May M/V al Hilial II
- 31 May M/V Alamab

On 11 June TAYLOR arrived in Salalah, Oman to conduct upkeep and provide the crew liberty. Departing Salalah on 15 June,

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TAYLOR returned to the ITRC for patrol conducting boardings on the following dates:

16 June M/V Zambia
17 June M/V Al Alamin
19 June M/V al Mahfuud

On 22 June TAYLOR received tasking to participate as an escort for the World Food Program M/V Tupi Maiden ensuring vital supplies reached Djibouti on time, without incident. TAYLOR participated in escort duties with FS Guepratte of the European Union Maritime Task Force 465 to ensure safe passage of the M/V to Djibouti. Following escort duties TAYLOR proceeded to the northern Somali Coast to gather intelligence, conduct surveillance and reconnaissance. Utilizing all available means TAYLOR deployed her small boat and available sensors to collect information necessary to determine patterns of life along the Somali coast. TAYLOR returned to the ITRC and conducted the following boardings and approaches:

26 June M/V al Nurani
27 June M/V al aamir, al Fowz
01 July M/V al Nurani, Mahdi
02 July M/V Salma, Salamar, Sadiq II
04 July M/V Fahad
05 July M/V Fahad

On 10 July, TAYLOR moved north from the ITRC to the Gulf of Oman, arriving in Muscat, Oman on 13 July. TAYLOR conducted numerous repairs while in port, as well as held an attaché luncheon aboard. The following attachés were in attendance:

COL Lyons, USMC
CDR Fry, USN
CAPT Newton, UK
CAPT Mustafa Mohmoud, Egypt
CAPT Arjun dev Nair, India
CAPT Naveed Anwar Cheema, Pakistan

Returning to sea on 16 July, TAYLOR returned to the ITRC via the Gulf of Oman. TAYLOR conducted boardings of M/V Al Hugra and M/V Volvo. Additionally, she closed to within three nautical miles of the Somali coast to conduct overt patrols and collect intelligence, including the surveillance of the pirated vessels M/V Royal Grace and M/V Smyrna.

On 30 July, Commander Hill visited the HNLMS Evertsen (F805), a De Seven Provinciën class frigate of the Royal Dutch Navy, and flagship, CTF508.

TAYLOR continued patrols in the ITRC, and again visited the Somali coast on 05-06 August to conduct ISR events for pattern of life development. At one point, TAYLOR's VBSS team observed Somalis swimming out to the RHIB in an attempt to communicate.

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TAYLOR then returned to the IRTC for patrol, conducting a boarding of the M/V Abari Baxar on 11 August.

On 15 August, TAYLOR conducted her final RAS in the Gulf of Aden with the USNS CARL BRASHEAR. Additionally, the commander of CTF 508 visited TAYLOR just before her departure. After the RAS had been completed, TAYLOR began her journey back home, passing through the Bab el Mendeb Strait on the evening of 15 August.

For the next three days, TAYLOR moved steadily northward through the Red Sea, and towards the Suez Canal. On the evening of 18 August, she entered the Gulf of Suez, and arrived at Port Suez in the early morning of 19 August. TAYLOR conducted a relatively uneventful northbound transit of the canal, and entered the Mediterranean Sea in the late afternoon of 19 August.

After a two day transit westward, TAYLOR conducted a nighttime RAS with the USNS JOHN LENTHALL off the northern coast of Crete. Continuing westward, TAYLOR passed through the Straits of Sicily on 22 August, and passed through the Strait of Gibraltar on the evening of 24 August.

TAYLOR conducted a night time anchorage evolution in the early morning hours of 25 August prior to pulling into Rota, Spain, for a BSF. Underway again in the late evening, TAYLOR turned southward towards the Canary Islands, arriving at the Port of Las Palmas on 27 August.

Las Palmas was the final liberty port before returning home and proved to be a very enjoyable port visit. TAYLOR conducted a joint fire drill with the city of Las Palmas fire department and hosted the Mayor of Las Palmas aboard as well as the President of the Port Authority. Additionally, CDR Hill conducted an official call with Admiral Salvador Delgado Moreno, Almirante Comandante del Mundo Naval de Canarias. TAYLOR Sailors conducted a community relations project at Hospitales San Roque, a local hospital. TAYLOR bid farewell to Las Palmas on 30 August, and continued her journey westward. Shortly upon departure, she was directed to divert first to Bermuda, and then to San Juan, Puerto Rico because of a tropical weather system in the North Atlantic.

TAYLOR anchored in San Juan harbor on the afternoon of 7 September and took fuel throughout the night to support a morning underway. She made her way homeward, arriving at Naval Station Mayport in the late morning of 10 September, welcomed by family and friends, as well as the Commanders of Destroyer Squadron 14 and HSL-48. For the remainder of September, the crew

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enjoyed a well-deserved leave and upkeep period lasting through early October.

On 15 October, TAYLOR got underway once again for a week of local operations in the Jacksonville Operations Area. This included a detect-to-engage assessment of the ship's air defense capability, as well as damage control drills and deck landing qualifications for HSL 48.

Following her return on 19 October, TAYLOR bid farewell to CDR Volpe, and greeted LCDR Rodriguez as the new Executive Officer.

As TAYLOR made preparations to get underway for her journey northward for a visit to Newport, Rhode Island, Tropical Storm Sandy formed in the southern Caribbean and began moving towards Florida. TAYLOR got underway and began to move north ahead of the storm.

As the storm's track changed, TAYLOR was instructed to divert to Norfolk to weather the storm. Just as she was beginning her inbound leg into Norfolk harbor, word reached TAYLOR that the entire fleet was under sortie. Now making her way eastward in company with USS WASP, she spent several days northeast of Bermuda, awaiting the passage of Hurricane Sandy as it moved towards the Atlantic coast.

Once past the storm, TAYLOR conducted a RAS with the USNS PATUXTENT on 1 November and then set course for Mayport, arriving back home on 2 November for a short respite before getting U/W once again on 5 November. After a short week underway, TAYLOR sailed back into Mayport on 9 November, CDR Hill's last underway as Commanding Officer.

On 15 November the wardroom and crew bid farewell to CDR Hill, as CDR Dennis J. Volpe relieved him as Commanding Officer of USS TAYLOR. For the first time since the ship's commissioning, the immediate family of the ship's namesake, CDR Jesse Junior Taylor, to include his wife Mrs. (b) (6), made a visit to the ship. Following the ceremony, the crew celebrated Thanksgiving weekend and made preparations for the upcoming underway.

On 28 November, CDR Volpe took TAYLOR to sea for the first time as Commanding Officer. TAYLOR provided a platform for DLQs for HSL 42 and HSM 60 before beginning participation in IDCERTEX 13-2 as the opposition force. The ship celebrated her 28th birthday on 1 December. TAYLOR conducted a short port visit to Port Everglades during Broward County Navy Days. TAYLOR Sailors participated in a memorial ceremony for Flight 19, as well as

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several other community relations projects, and welcomed several WWII veterans aboard including one of the last of the Tuskegee airmen. TAYLOR left Port Everglades and headed back north, again providing DLQ support for the 160th SOAR before finishing up OPFOR duties.

On 18 December, TAYLOR steamed into Naval Station Mayport following successful completion of IDCERTEX 13-2, and began a short Leave and upkeep period prior to the start of a Selected Restricted Availability maintenance period scheduled for the first part of 2013.

5. Supporting Reports:

- a. Deployment Order Message (S)
- b. Burial at Sea Message (U)
- c. Funchal, Portugal Port Visit Report (U)
- d. Souda Bay, Crete Port Visit Report (C)
- e. PASSEX with French Submarine S605 Amethyste (C)
- f. Suez Canal Southbound After Action Report (U)
- g. OPCON Shift to FIFTH FLEET Message (C)
- h. Salalah, Oman Port Visit Report (U)
- i. Daily SITREPS/Daily OPREP (C)
- j. Port Victoria, Seychelles Port Visit Report (U)
- k. Salalah, Oman Port Visit Report (U)
- l. Muscat, Oman, Port Visit Report (U)
- m. Suez Canal Northbound After Action Report (U)
- n. Rota BSF After Action Report (U)
- o. Las Palmas Port Visit Report (U)
- p. CTF 508 Lessons Learned (C)
- q. C5F/C6F Lessons Learned (C)
- r. San Juan BSF After Action Report (U)

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s. Port Everglades Port Visit Report (U)

6. Published Documents:

a. Welcome Aboard Pamphlet (U)

b. Mayport Mirror Articles (U)

c. CUSNC Article 15 APR 2012 (U)

d. Al-Arabyia Article(U)

e. Operation Ocean Shield Article (U)

f. Change of Command Pamphlet (U)

g. TAYLOR Homepage: www.taylor.navy.mil (U)

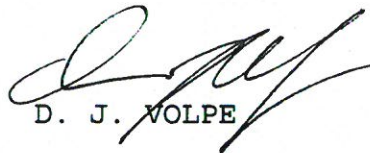
7. Photographs:

a. USS TAYLOR (FFG 50) Photograph (U)

b. CDR Hill Photo (U)

c. CDR Volpe Photo (U)

d. LCDR Rodriguez Photo (U)


D. J. VOLPE

THURSDAY, 21 February 2013

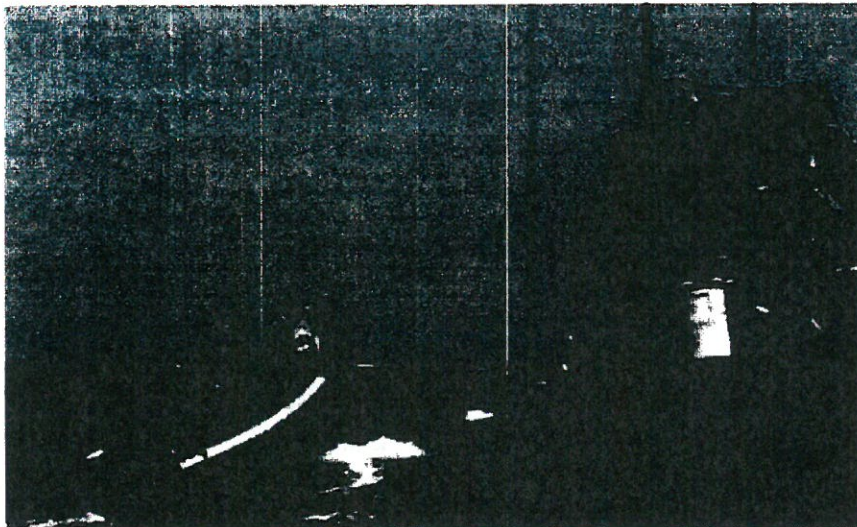
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 Search**NATO says it's winning war against Somali piracy**

Saturday, 21 July 2012



Pirate gangs can stay out at sea for long periods using captured merchant vessels as mother ships and have been using Yemen's remote island of Socotra as a refueling hub. (Reuters)

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By REUTERS
MUSCAT

The threat from Somali pirates is receding but the international community must continue to work together to eliminate the menace, a NATO official said on Saturday.

"We are getting more successful in reducing the Somali piracy threats with our constant patrolling but the international community must continue to exchange ideas and increase efforts to completely eradicate the problem," Commodore Ben Bekkering, NATO's counter-piracy commander, said at a news conference on Dutch war vessel HNLMS Evertsen in Muscat.

According to the International Maritime Bureau, there were 69 hijacking incidents by Somali pirates from Jan. 1 to July 12 this year, a drop of 32 percent compared to the same period in 2011.

"We are happy to say that Oman's navy is cooperating and helping us to find the hijackers but it is like looking for a needle in a haystack," Bekkering said.

Pirate gangs can stay out at sea for long periods using captured merchant vessels as mother ships and have been using Yemen's remote island of Socotra as a refueling hub.

Oman lies at the mouth of the Gulf, a strategic, heavily patrolled waterway which channels the bulk of the world's crude shipments.

"The Somali piracy crisis is costing world trade billions of dollars a year. It is important we all work together to stop it," Bekkering said.

NATO said earlier that increased use of armed security guards, and other defenses like water cannon

and razor wire are also helping reduce the number of successful attacks on merchant ships.

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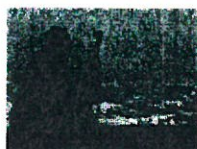
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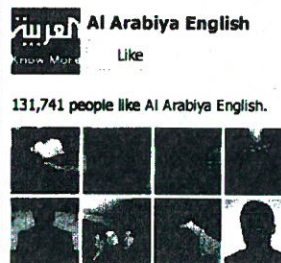
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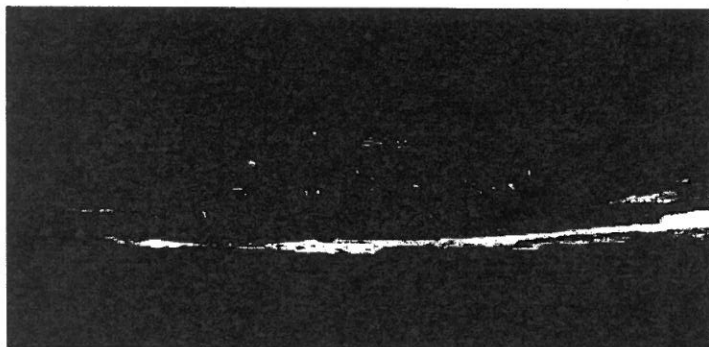
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Thank you for attending the Change of
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USS TAYLOR

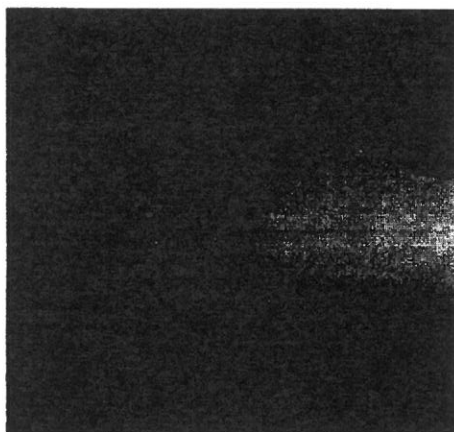
Welcome aboard

Commander Dennis J. Volpe



Fair Winds and Following Seas
to

Commander Jeremy R. Hill



USS TAYLOR (FFG 50)
"Proud Defender"



Change of Command Ceremony
15 November 2012

About the USS TAYLOR (FFG 50)

USS TAYLOR is a 4100 ton, 453 foot long, OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigate.

USS TAYLOR is manned by a crew of 21 Officers, 15 Chief Petty Officers and 176 enlisted men. The Navy built 53 of the PERRY class, and TAYLOR is the 19th to be built by Bath Iron Works of Bath, Maine, and was commissioned on 1 December 1984. TAYLOR is home ported in Mayport, Florida and is assigned to Destroyer Squadron FOURTEEN.

USS TAYLOR is a multi-mission platform capable of performing a variety of roles ranging from convoy escort to air, surface and undersea warfare. TAYLOR utilizes two LM-2500 marine gas turbine engines for main propulsion. She is configured with a 76mm gun and anti-submarine torpedoes, as well as a variety of sophisticated self-defense weapons systems, electronics, radars, and communications equipment. TAYLOR is also configured to carry two SH-60B LAMPS (Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System) MK III helicopters, which are integrated with a combat systems suite to enhance the ship's undersea and surface warfare capabilities. TAYLOR is also equipped with the Tactical Towed Array Sonar system (TACTAS) and an upgrade to the MK 92 fire control system, which gives TAYLOR a combat capability far beyond the class program expectations of the mid-1970s. This combination of weapons system makes TAYLOR a valuable asset in the war-at-sea scenario.

USS TAYLOR has operated extensively in the Western Atlantic Ocean, Barents Sea, Norwegian Sea, North Sea, Caribbean Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Arabian Gulf and the Horn of Africa. TAYLOR has made twelve extended deployments: with NATO's Standing Naval Force Atlantic in 1987, to the Arabian Gulf in 1988, in 1990 as part of OPERATION DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM, in 1992 as part of OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH, in 1994 to the Mediterranean and Red Seas, in 1997 with NATO's Standing Naval Force Mediterranean, back to the Arabian Gulf in 1999; in 2002 as part of OPERATION DIRECT EDEAVOR with NATO's Standing Naval Forces Mediterranean; and in Arabian Gulf in 2006 in support of the Global War on Terrorism and OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. In 2008 IN SUPPORT OF Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 and 6th Fleet requirements. In 2010, she conducted an independent surface strike group deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and above the Arctic Circle conducting Theater Security Cooperation operations. In 2012, she was forward deployed to 5th and 6th fleet in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM and NATO OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOR and OCEAN SHIELD.

Change of Command Ceremony

Commander Jeremy R. Hill
United States Navy

will be relieved by

Commander Dennis J. Volpe
United States Navy

As Commanding Officer
USS TAYLOR (FFG 50)

USS TAYLOR (FFG 50)

Change of Command Ceremony

15 November 2012

Order of Service

Arrival of the Official Party

Parading of the Colors

**USS TAYLOR Ceremonial
Color Guard**

National Anthem

IC3 (b) (6)

Invocation

Chaplain

Guest Speaker Remarks

**CAPT Paul E. Flood
CDS-14 Commodore**

Presentation to Commanding Officer

Presentation of Commissioning Pennant

**CMDCM Joseph D. Gardner
CMC, USN**

Remarks & Reading of Orders

CDR Jeremy R. Hill, USN

Reading of Orders & Remarks

CDR Dennis J. Volpe, USN

Benediction

Chaplain

Departure of the Official Party

USS TAYLOR (FFG 50) is named for the late Commander Jesse Junior Taylor, USN. Commander Taylor was born in Wichita, Kansas, on 16 January 1925. He enlisted in the Navy in October 1942, and served as an Aviation Radioman until the end of World War II with Bombing Squadron VB-11 aboard the Carrier USS HORNET in the South Pacific.

During the Korean conflict he returned to the Navy as a Naval Aviator and in May 1952 received his commission as an Ensign. After a tour with Composite Squadron Four, he served as a NROTC Instructor at the University of California at Los Angeles. Further flight training and a tour with the Chief of Staff, Naval Air Training followed at NAS Pensacola, Florida. He was promoted to Lieutenant Commander while serving with VF-174. Later he attended the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island and directed the Flight Test division of the Bureau of Naval Weapons at St. Louis, Missouri for two years.

In July 1965, LCDR Taylor was assigned to Air Wing 16 aboard the attack carrier USS ORISKANY, and sailed to the Western Pacific. He flew 16 missions between September and November, earning an Air Medal and a Gold Star in lieu of a second award.

On 17 November 1965, Commander Taylor was flying his Skyraider during attacks on a key bridge near the North Vietnamese port of Haiphong. Ground fire had downed one of the other U.S. Navy aircraft and its pilot had ejected in a heavily defended area. Commander Taylor heard the radio transmission describing the pilot's plight. Realizing that time was of the essence in any attempt to rescue the downed pilot, Commander Taylor made a courageous decision. Although it was not his assigned mission, and having discovered that the other rescue aircraft were occupied elsewhere, he took command of the rescue effort.

Commander Taylor proceeded to the scene and found the pilot still in his parachute harness in shallow water. To cover the approach of the rescue helicopter, Commander Taylor attacked the anti-aircraft gun sites despite intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire and the fact that his own plane had sustained damage. The storm of enemy fire made it impossible for the helicopter to rescue the man on the ground. Meanwhile, because of fire on his own aircraft, Commander Taylor was forced to break off his own persistent attacks. Rather than abandon his plane in enemy territory, he elected to try to ditch in the Gulf of Tonkin. However, fire burned through the wing of his plane and it crashed before he had time to eject.

For his heroic determination to save a fellow pilot, at great risk to his own life, Commander Jesse Junior Taylor was posthumously awarded , the Navy Cross.



CAPTAIN PAUL E. FLOOD UNITED STATES NAVY

Captain Paul E. Flood, USN, is Commander Destroyer Squadron 14. His most recent tour was as the Program Manager for the Biological Threat Reduction Program, in the Cooperative Threat Reduction Directorate of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. He has served as a United States Navy Surface Warfare Officer since his commissioning in February 1986.

Captain Flood commanded USS RODNEY M DAVIS (FFG 60) from March 2004 through November 2005, leading the ship during her operational deployments to Southeast Asia for Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT 05), and Southeast Asia Cooperation Against Terrorism (SEACAT 05). Captain Flood served as Task Group Sea Combat Commander and Task Group Screen Commander for the five ship deployment group, and led ships from five Southeast Asian navies.

He was the first Commanding Officer of USS SHAMAL (PC 13) taking her from fleet introduction through her first operational deployment to Southern Command.

Captain Flood was Executive Officer on USS INGRAHAM (FFG 61), overseeing the training and preparations for RIMPAC and an Arabian Gulf deployment. His other sea tours include Engineer Officer on USS SAMUEL B ROBERTS (FFG 58), and Main Propulsion Assistant on USS JOHN KING (DDG 3).

Captain Flood's shore tours include Financial Branch Head for the Surface Warfare Directorate, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV N86); Finance Officer of the Surface Warfare Enterprise; Executive Assistant to the Director, Office of Program Appraisal, Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV OPA). Additionally, he has served in the Programming Division of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV N80), and as Type Desk Officer on the staff of the Commander, Naval Surface Forces, Atlantic.

His personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Navy Commendation Medal (five awards), and the Navy Achievement Medal (two awards).

Captain Flood graduated from Davidson College in 1982 with a B.A. in literature; he has earned a Masters Degree from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY



Based on long naval heritage, the Change of Command Ceremony serves as both the symbolic and actual transfer of authority between Commanding Officers. Not only is the ceremony formal and impressive, but it also marks the transfer of total responsibility, authority, and accountability from one individual to another.

The instantaneous, absolute and publicly-acknowledged relinquishment and assumption of command occurs with the formal reading of official orders. Marking both the transition of authority and the acceptance of responsibility, the reading of the orders is the focal point of the ceremony.



“Responsibility is accepting that we cannot always do the things we’d like to do, when called upon to do something; it’s doing the right thing that counts.”

CDR Jesse Junior Taylor



**COMMANDER
JEREMY R. HILL, USN
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS TAYLOR (FFG 50)**

CDR Jeremy Hill was born in (b) (6). He graduated from the United States Naval Academy and received his commission in 1995.

His first tour of duty was aboard USS SCOTT (DDG 995), where he served as Ordnance Officer and later, the Engineering Training Officer. In February 1998, he received orders to USS CARR (FFG 52), where he served as Ordnance Officer.

In May 2000, CDR Hill reported to USS DEYO (DD 989) and served as Combat Systems Officer. He then transferred to USS CORMORANT (MHC 57) in December 2001 and served as Executive Officer.

His next assignment was to the U.S. Naval War College, where he completed a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies and Joint Professional Military Education Phase I (JPME I) in March 2005. He completed his Joint Professional Military Education Phase II (JPME II) at the Armed Forces Staff College.

In November 2005, CDR Hill reported to USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19), Seventh Fleet's Command Ship, as Executive officer. Commander Hill took Command of USS TAYLOR (FFG 50) in May 2011 after completing his tour as Executive Officer.

CDR Hill's tours ashore include Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group XXIII and Deputy, Seabasing Branch in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Assessment Division N81 where he concurrently completed a distance learning Master's of Systems Analysis degree with the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, CA.

CDR Hill's personal awards and decorations include: the Meritorious Service Medal (w/1 star), Navy Commendation Medal (w/3 stars), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (w/2 stars), and various service awards.



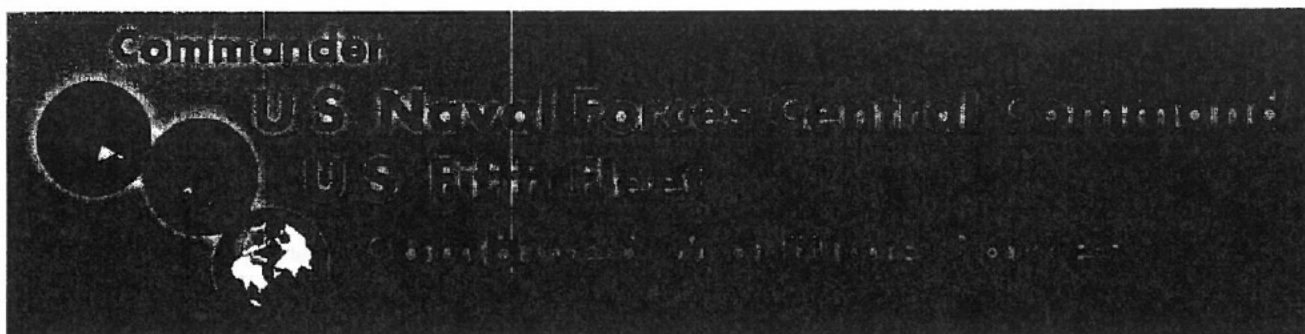
**COMMANDER
DENNIS J. VOLPE, USN
PROSPECTIVE
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS TAYLOR (FFG 50)**

CDR Dennis Volpe is originally from (b) (6) and attended the United States Naval Academy where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in History in 1996.

His first tour of duty was aboard USS SPRUANCE (DD 963) from January 1997 until November 2000, where he served as Communications Officer, Training Officer and First Lieutenant. In October 2004, he reported to USS GETTYSBURG (CG 64) and served as Weapons Officer and Combat Systems Officer until January 2008. CDR Volpe recently finished his Executive Officer tour on USS TAYLOR (FFG 50) from April 2011 until October 2012. CDR Volpe has participated in deployments in the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Caribbean Sea, Eastern Pacific, Arabian Gulf and the Horn of Africa.

CDR Volpe's tours ashore include instructor duty at the United States Naval Academy as a member of the Leadership, Ethics, and Law Department. While assigned to the United States Naval Academy, he obtained a Master's Degree in Leadership and Human Resource Development from the Naval Postgraduate School. In February 2008, CDR Volpe was selected to attend the Naval Command and Staff College at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. While assigned to the Naval War College, he obtained a Master's Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies, a counterinsurgency subspecialty and Joint Professional Military Education Phase I. CDR Volpe served as a long-range operational planner (CJ5) at the ISAF Joint Command (IJC) in Kabul, Afghanistan from July 2009 until July 2010.

CDR Volpe's awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Navy Commendation Medal (4 awards); Navy Achievement Medal (5 awards) and various unit, service and campaign awards.



Command Leadership News CMF

Apr. 15, 2012

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Release 050-12

Taylor Participants in Operation Ocean Shield

By Ensign Jennifer Gabriel, USS Taylor (FFG 50) Public Affairs

GULF OF ADEN - Over the past several weeks, guided-missile frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50) and its visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS) team, have actively patrolled the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) and provided security assistance to several merchant vessels transiting through the Gulf of Aden region.

Taylor, with embarked Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 48 Detachment 9, is assigned to Commander, NATO Task Force 508 Operation Ocean Shield. This Operation is NATO's counter piracy mission in the Gulf of Aden and India Ocean.

"Ocean Shield is a clear demonstration of the alliance's capability in the maritime field, and its flexibility in meeting the variety of challenges posed in today's security environment," said Cmdr. J. R. Hill, USS Taylor's commanding officer. "As part of the NATO Task Force Taylor complements the European Union, Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), and independent nations' units tackling piracy in the region."

Taylor's mission is to patrol the waters of the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian Sea and Somali Basin, and investigate suspicious maritime activity. Additionally, the ship supports merchant vessels requiring assistance while transiting the IRTC and other regional waterways. Taylor also monitors commercial merchant shipping and convoys and provides security overwatch.

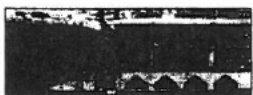
"Most vessels we have encountered are legitimate fishing or trading and are not involved with piracy operations, but the data collected helps provide information for pattern of life analysis and evidence to compare between boardings that may help classify a dhow as a pirate vessel more clearly during a boarding" said Lt. (b) (6) Taylor's senior VBSS Officer.

The information collected during each boarding operation is forwarded to other CTF 508 assets participating in Operation Ocean Shield, as well as other counter-piracy task force units from the European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR), CMF, and other national contributors to provide increased regional maritime awareness and security for the international merchant community.

Piracy and maritime crime are a significant concern to the international community, contributing nations, non-government and commercial organizations. Taylor has conducted numerous maritime security assist visit (MSAV) boardings in support of NATO's counter-piracy efforts.

As the deployment continues, Taylor expects to remain vigilant on patrol, providing the maritime presence and security necessary to support counter-piracy efforts throughout the region.

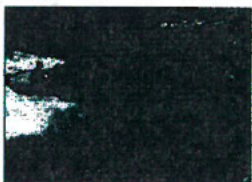
Photos:



120311-N-XZ855-003 ARABIAN SEA (March 11, 2012) U.S. Navy Sailors assigned to the guided-missile frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50) visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team disembark a dhow after completing a routine compliant boarding. Taylor



is assigned to commander, NATO Task Force 508 supporting Operation Ocean Shield, maritime interception operations and counter-piracy in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility. (U.S. Navy photo by Cryptologic Technician Third Class (b) (6) (b) (6) Released)



120311-N-ZZ999-001 ARABIAN SEA (March 11, 2012) U.S. Navy Sailors assigned to the guided-missile frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50) visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team transit back to the ship after conducting a compliant boarding. Taylor is assigned to commander, NATO Task Force 508 supporting Operation Ocean Shield, maritime interception operations and counter-piracy in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility. (U.S. Navy photo by Operations Specialist 1st Class (b) (6) (b) (6) Released)

Tag:

- NAVCENT
- Maritime Security Operation
- Fifth Fleet
- Navy

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For further questions, please contact Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command
Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet Public Affairs Office at 011-973-1785-4027.

For Naval Support Activity Bahrain at 11-973-1785-4000.

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Taylor Families Spend Day At Sea

Posted: February 8, 2012 - 7:39pm

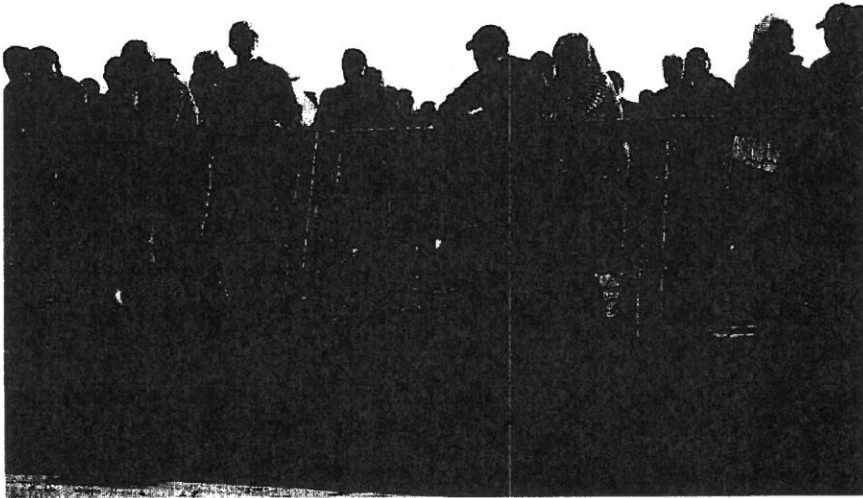


Photo by Paige Gnann

By Paige Gnann

The Mirror editor

Friends and families of USS Taylor (FFG 50) got the opportunity to experience a day in the life of their Sailor while underway with the ship during a Friends and Family Day Cruise on Feb. 2.

The day was also highlighted with special visitors, Greg and Beth Taylor, the ship's namesake's son and daughter-in-law.

USS Taylor was named for Cmdr. Jesse Junior Taylor, who died on Nov. 17, 1965 after being shot down over North Vietnam while trying to rescue a downed pilot.

The Taylors live in Southern California and it was their first visit to the ship since its commissioning 27 years ago.

"I was very nervous to come on the ship," said Greg Taylor. "I didn't feel worthy to step onto a ship that people are here serving their country. But every single person on this ship has made us feel comfortable."

The Taylors spent the day visiting with crew members and their families, as well as exploring the ship and its memorabilia. Beth Taylor gifted the ship with an album with pictures of Cmdr. Taylor during his years of service.

"I remember my dad as just a dad," Greg said. "[His service] is one of the strongest things that's defined my life."

Greg said he also remembers living in Jacksonville while his father was stationed as a pilot at NAS Jacksonville and Cecil Field. His mother, Taylor's widow, is still alive. She never remarried after losing her husband in the war.

"He was her soulmate," Greg said. "She was a great Navy wife."

Before setting sail, Commanding Officer, Cmdr. J.R. Hill, welcomed the group on board and thanked them for supporting their Sailors from the homefront.

"Having Greg and Beth Taylor on board for the Friends and Family Day cruise was an honor and privilege for me, the crew, and the families that joined us for the event," Hill said. "With more than 150 friends and family members underway with us, we had the opportunity to show our guests what a basic day in the Navy is like. It also gave the families a chance to see that the crew is highly proficient in operating the ship as we prepare for a deployment overseas. The crew takes a lot of pride in their ship and I believe the Taylor namesake family saw that in them."

Seaman Apprentice (b) (6) brought his father (b) (6) and grandfather, (b) (6), out for the day cruise. It was old times for (b) (6) who served in the Navy as a Machinist's Mate during the 50s on the destroyer USS Cone.

(b) (6) started a tradition of military service, followed by three sons and two grandchildren joining different branches of the military.

"We tried to lead (b) (6) the way to go," (b) (6) said.

The day was also filled with activities such as a tour of the main areas of the ship, including the bridge. There was a Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) exhibit, and a chance for everyone to relax during a Steel Beach picnic on the fantail.

"This is great," laughed (b) (6) sister of Logistics Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) (b) (6). "It's awesome. I didn't know he had gourmet lunches and dinners!"

"I'm having a blast," (b) (6) father of Boatswain's Mate Seaman (b) (6) said. "He's walked me around all the different spaces. I'm very proud [of (b) (6)]. He's out there for a reason."

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Taylor Completes First Leg Of Deployment

Posted: February 29, 2012 - 8:23pm

By Ensign Jennifer Gabriel

USS Taylor PAO

USS Taylor (FFG 50), with the "Barefoot Bandits" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Light Squadron 48 Detachment 9 embarked, successfully completed its Trans-Atlantic journey marked by a Brief Stop for Fuel in Funchal, Portugal on Feb. 19.

The Officers and crew of USS Taylor and HSL-48 Detachment 9 said goodbye to friends and family in Mayport on Feb. 9 as they departed for their 2012 deployment to the Fifth Fleet area of operation in support of Counter-Piracy operations.

USS Taylor completed the final phase of the COMNAVSURFLANT pilot training program during the two Jima COMPTUEX and was certified as an Independent Deployer in December. The crew of USS Taylor enjoyed a holiday leave and upkeep period, as well as completed an extensive pre-deployment maintenance availability following deployment certification. Since departing on deployment, the crew has spent the past 10 days focusing on mission requirements through extensive training. They completed several damage control and firefighting drills, flight operations, weapons qualification, and small boat operations to prepare for forward deployed operations.

"Leaving family at home is always difficult, but staying busy at sea is a good way to keep you from becoming homesick" said SN (b) (6).

There is a definite buzz throughout the ship about expectations for the next several months as crewmembers discuss the details of past deployments.

USS Taylor returned home in October 2010 from a Mediterranean deployment in which the crew had the opportunity to visit over fifteen countries. The mission then was Theater Security Cooperation in order to develop and maintain positive US relations in the European theater of operations.

The 2012 Counter Piracy mission is new to many crewmembers, but the crew is prepared and excited to demonstrate the skills they have developed over the past year in Maritime Security Operations, Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) operations, force protection, weapons accuracy, and ship handling. The "Barefoot Bandits" of HSL-48 Detachment 9 have expanded Taylor's multi-mission capabilities to include long-range surface surveillance and anti-submarine operations, aerial force protection, search and rescue, medical evacuation, and vertical replenishment.

Crossing the Atlantic was the first major milestone of USS Taylor's seven-month deployment. While there are many more milestones that the crew will have to meet during the coming months, the Proud Defenders look forward to the opportunity to take part in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Ocean Shield in support of Fifth Fleet and NATO operational requirements.

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USS Taylor Enters U.S. 5th Fleet

Posted: March 28, 2012 - 5:35pm

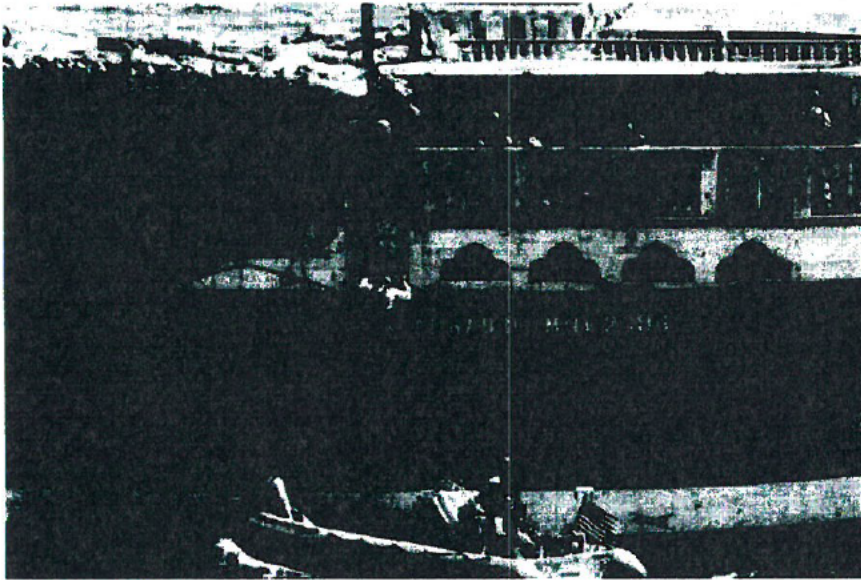


Photo by CT3 Michael Tammen

U.S. Navy Sailors, assigned to the guided-missile frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50) visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team, disembark a dhow after completing a routine compliant boarding. Taylor is assigned to commander, NATO Task Force 508 supporting Operation Ocean Shield, maritime interception operations and counter-piracy in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

By Ensign Jennifer Gabriel

USS Taylor (FFG 50) Public Affairs

The guided-missile frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50) began its deployment within the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility, March 1.

Taylor's navigational team led the ship through the approximately 100-mile length of the Suez Canal, which links the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, which lasted 14-hours.

"The Suez Canal transit was a good experience from a navigation standpoint. While the transit was not too difficult, there were several components, such as the length and the width of the canal, that made it a great training evolution," said Quartermaster 2nd Class (b) (6).

The Suez Canal Authority provided an impressive force protection posture during the entire transit, utilizing land, air and sea assets to ensure a safe and secure passage through the canal and into the Red Sea.

"The transit was a culturally enlightening experience. Not only was the crew able to see small aspects of Egypt's infrastructure, we were able to work with several Egyptian navigation pilots who showed us new ways to use our navigational radars," said Ensign (b) (6), Taylor's junior officer of the deck.

The Suez Canal, a strategic chokepoint through which almost 10 percent of world trade flows, generates more than five billion dollars in annual revenue. Taylor is assigned to commander, NATO Task Force 508, supporting the counter-piracy mission, Operation Ocean Shield.

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Taylor Participates In Operation Ocean Shield

Posted: April 18, 2012 - 5:02pm

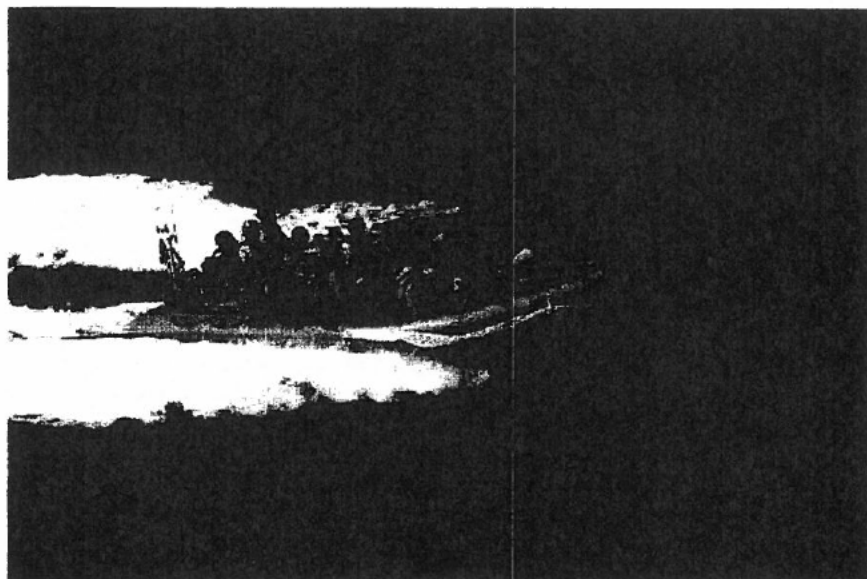


Photo by CT3 Michael Tammen

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By Ensign Jennifer Gabriel

USS Taylor Public Affairs

During the past several weeks, guided-missile frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50) and its visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS) team, have actively patrolled the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) and provided security assistance to several merchant vessels transiting through the Gulf of Aden region.

Taylor, with embarked Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 48 Detachment 9, is assigned to Commander, NATO Task Force 508 Operation Ocean Shield. This Operation is NATO's counter piracy mission in the Gulf of Aden and India Ocean.

"Ocean Shield is a clear demonstration of the alliance's capability in the maritime field, and its flexibility in meeting the variety of challenges posed in today's security environment," said Cmdr. J. R. Hill, USS Taylor's commanding officer.

"As part of the NATO Task Force Taylor complements the European Union, Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), and Independent nations' units tackling piracy in the region," Hill added.

Taylor's mission is to patrol the waters of the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian Sea and Somali Basin, and investigate suspicious maritime activity. Additionally, the ship supports merchant vessels requiring assistance while transiting the IRTC and other regional waterways.

"Most vessels we have encountered are legitimate fishing or trading and are not involved with piracy operations, but the data collected helps provide information for pattern of life analysis and evidence to compare between boardings that may help classify a dhow as a pirate vessel more clearly during a boarding," said Lt. (b) (6) Taylor's senior VBSS Officer.

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Piracy and maritime crime are a significant concern to the international community, contributing nations, non-government and commercial organizations. Taylor has conducted numerous maritime security assist visit (MSAV) boardings in support of NATO's counter-piracy efforts.

As the deployment continues, Taylor expects to remain vigilant on patrol, providing the maritime presence and security necessary to support counter-piracy efforts throughout the region.

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Taylor Participates In 'Ocean Shield'

Posted: May 23, 2012 - 8:21pm

By Ensign Jennifer Gabriel

USS Taylor Public Affairs

Over the past several weeks, guided-missile frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50) and its visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS) team, have actively patrolled the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) and provided security assistance to several merchant vessels transiting through the Gulf of Aden region.

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Taylor Aids Yemeni Dhow

Posted: June 6, 2012 - 6:22pm

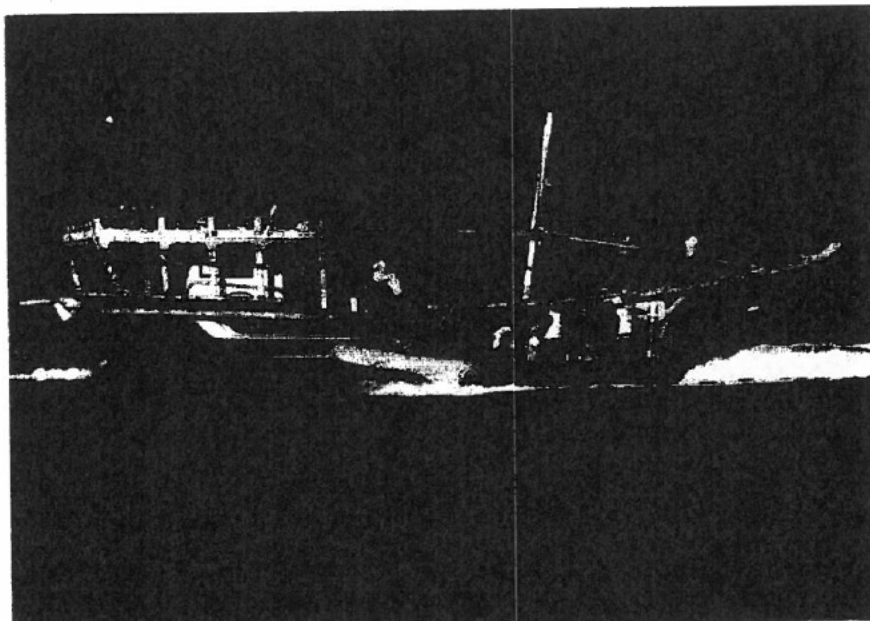


Photo by MC1 Peter Santini
Members of the visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team of the guided-missile frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50) respond to the disabled Yemeni fishing dhow Nahda. The dhow was deemed inoperable due to loss of its engine. Taylor is assigned to Commander, NATO Task Force 508 supporting Operation Ocean Shield, maritime interception operations and counter-piracy missions in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

By Lt J.g. Jennifer Gabriel
USS Taylor Public Affairs

Guided-missile frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50) rendered assistance to a distressed Yemeni fishing dhow experiencing mechanical problems, May 19-21. Aircrew members of an SH-60B Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to Taylor's embarked Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 48 Detachment 9, observed the Yemeni fishing dhow Nahda, approximately 190 nautical miles southwest of Salalah, Oman.

"We descended down to check the dhow and noticed there were a few people on deck. They began to wave their arms above their heads very similar to the international sign of distress," Lt. (b) (6), HSL-48 Det. 9 pilot. "These actions were not typical, based on previous encounters, and I had already noticed the vessel was not moving. Putting the two together, I realized that the vessel was in distress."

Taylor deployed a rigid-hulled inflatable boat (RHIB) with members of its visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team, to assess the condition of the dhow and its nine mariners. The dhow's master reported engine and mechanical problems as the vessel sailed from Socotra Island to Shihir, Yemen. Two enginemen assigned to Taylor, confirmed the engine was inoperable.

Taylor immediately coordinated with the Yemeni Coast Guard to provide assistance with dhow. Due to the lack of propulsion and the dhow's location within the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC), Taylor remained overnight in close proximity to the dhow to ensure the safety of the crew. The VBSS team provided Nahda's crew with food and water, and medical personnel assessed the mariners to be in good health.

Taylor towed Nahda toward Yemeni territorial waters May 20 because without any propulsion capability the dhow poses a hazard to navigation and unsafe to remain at sea. Taylor rendezvoused with a Yemeni Coast Guard rescue vessel to further support Nahda's crew, May 21. Taylor departed the scene and continued its mission.

"The event was successful due to the combined effort of the VBSS team, the engineers, boatswain's mates, and qualified officers of the deck," said Lt. (b) (6), Taylor's navigator and VBSS boarding officer. "The team was able to safely prepare Nahda for tow and provide assistance to its crew during the transit."

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USS Taylor Returns From 5th Fleet

Posted: September 19, 2012 - 6:10pm

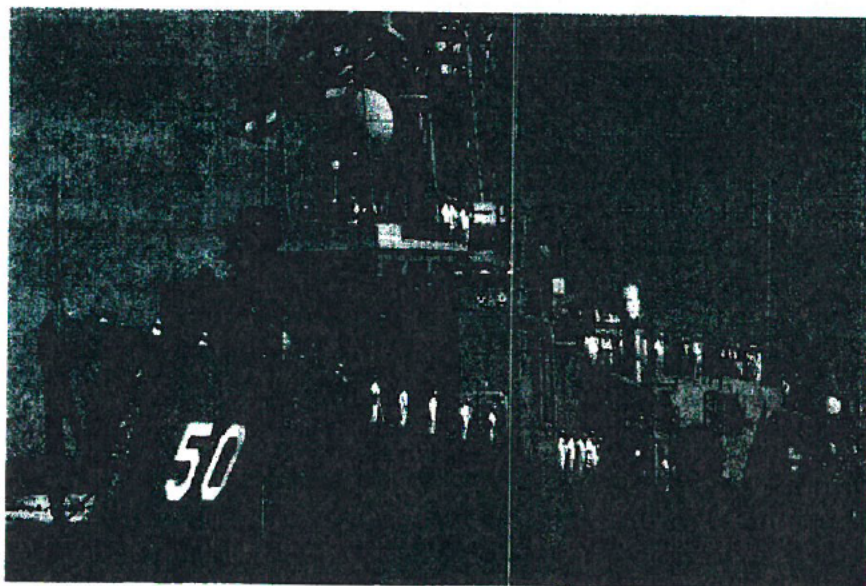


Photo by MC1 Ian W. Anderson

Sailors assigned to the guided-missile frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50) man the rails as the ship arrives in Naval Station Mayport after a successful seven-month deployment to the U.S. Fifth Fleet area of operation in support of U.S. and NATO Counter-Piracy requirements.

By Lt.j.g. Jennifer Gabriel

USS Taylor PAO

Families and friends welcomed back guided-missile frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50) and members of HSL-48 Detachment 9 at Naval Station Mayport on Sept. 10 following the completion of a successful seven-month deployment to the U.S. Fifth Fleet area of operation in support of U.S. and NATO Counter-Piracy requirements.

"I am extremely pleased and proud of the outstanding efforts of every Sailor aboard Taylor during the last seven months. Taylor's efforts, combined with the efforts of the other maritime task forces, ensured the safe transit of thousands of merchant and smaller vessels throughout the Horn of Africa area in order to enable greater regional stability," said Cmdr. Dennis Volpe, Taylor's executive officer. "Every Sailor should be proud of our accomplishments and I know they are looking forward to a well-deserved opportunity to relax and unwind with family and friends."

Taylor and its crew of more than 200 Sailors successfully conducted a wide range of operations supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Ocean Shield while assigned to Commander, NATO Task Force 508. Counter-piracy was the primary mission focus of the deployment, which included operational coordination with European Naval Force (TF 465), independent nations supporting the mission, and Coalition Maritime Force (CMF) assets operating in the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) and Somali Basin. Over the past seven months, Taylor was involved with three significant escort and safety-of-life-at-sea missions and multiple Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions to provide pattern of life information for regional trend analysis in order to support future operational planning.

In direct support of the counter-piracy mission, the ship's Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) Team dedicated over one hundred man hours conducting more than 70 Maritime Security Assistance visits of vessels operating throughout the Horn of Africa region from the Gulf of Aden to Gulf of Oman to the Indian Ocean and the Somali Basin.

Taylor's single SH-60B helicopter detachment supported the counter-piracy effort and amassed seven hundred flight hours, reaching an airframe fatigue life limit, while providing overwatch for VBSS operations, conducting SSC and ISR missions, and nine vertical replenishments.

"Each dawn seemed to bring a new challenge for the aircrew and maintainers of Heartache 17. Whether it was tracking the large volume of merchant ships transiting the IRTC or observing known pirate camps along the coastline, the 'Barefoot Bandits' of Detachment NINE could be counted on to execute the mission. The exceptional performance of our aircraft maintainers in one of the world's most demanding environments was the foundation for our success at deterring piracy in the region," said Lt. Cmdr. (b) (6) Taylor's Airboss.

Additionally, the ship and her crew participated in 25 replenishments at sea (RAS) and safely conducted 22 special Sea and Anchor evolutions, while pulling in and out of multiple overseas ports and transiting the Suez Canal twice.

"No piracy in our patrol area" was the deployment motto and that is exactly what the crew ensured while patrolling the waterways known for piracy. They took on the challenge of self-sufficiency in maintaining their equipment which helped keep the ship on station and ready for all missions assigned. Every individual was challenged in achieving a warfare qualification, major in-rate qualification, or advancement to the next higher paygrade. They achieved

those goals and many achieved all of them throughout the past seven months." Said Cmdr. Jeremy Hill, Taylor's Commanding Officer. "I am extremely proud and honored to be part of their accomplishments and professional growth."

The officers and crew enjoyed a few port visits during the deployment including Portugal, Crete, Oman, and the Seychelles for a little rest and relaxation from the arduous underway periods while conducting maintenance and upkeep to ensure continued operational readiness. While in port, the Chain-of-Command continued the U.S. Navy's longstanding tradition of ambassadorship by providing tours to Ministry of Aviation in the Seychelles, hosting several foreign attachés while in Muscat, Oman, and conducting official calls with the Task Force Commanders of both TF508 and TF485.

USS Taylor (FFG 50) performed superbly over the past seven months, satisfying all mission requirements and maintaining high spirits with a "can-do" and a "stay on mission through self sufficiency" attitude. Taylor's crew will spend the next couple of weeks with family, friends, and loved ones and enjoy some well-deserved post-deployment leave to decompress after being away from home. During their leave and upkeep period, the crew will undoubtedly maintain their unsurpassed work ethic and high standards of professionalism to prepare the ship for future training requirements and operational tasking.

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USS Taylor Changes Hands

Posted: November 20, 2012 - 2:53pm

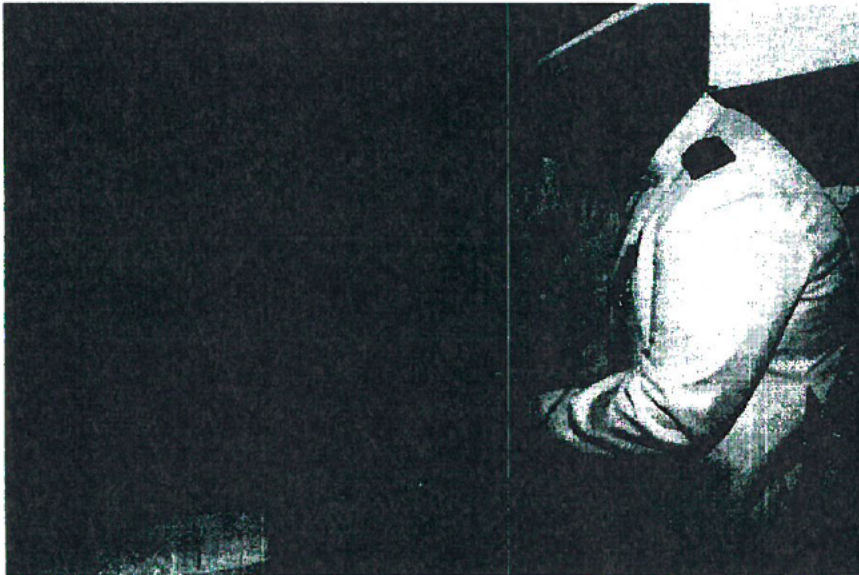


Photo by Paige Gnan
USS Taylor new Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Dennis Volpe, right, holds a piece of cake baked by the ship's culinary specialists to resemble the American flag when cut as outgoing Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Jeremy Hill, middle, reaches for a plate.

By Ensign Caitlyn Levinson

USS Taylor PAO

Command of the Mayport-based Guided Missile Frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50) changed hands on Thursday, Nov. 13 when Cmdr. Dennis J. Volpe relieved Cmdr. Jeremy R. Hill in front of the crew, friends and family and some very special guests.

USS Taylor was the proud host to the family its namesake, Jesse Junior Taylor. Twenty-three Taylor family members attended the change of command, including Jesse Jr. Taylor's widow, (b) (6). The last time Mrs. (b) (6) was on board was 28 years ago for Taylor's commissioning ceremony. The family was able to participate in a ship tour and interacted with the Taylor crew.

During the ceremony, Capt. Paul E. Flood, Commander, Destroyer Squadron 14, spoke on behalf of Cmdr. Hill and presented him with an end-of-tour award. (b) (6) Cmdr. Hill's wife, was also presented with a yellow rose.

Volpe, was previously assigned as the executive officer of USS Taylor. A 1996 graduate of the Naval Academy, Volpe served aboard destroyers and cruisers throughout his career. His first tour of duty was aboard USS Spruance (DD 963) from January 1997 until November 2000, where he served as Communications Officer, Training Officer and First Lieutenant. In October 2004, he reported to USS Gettysburg (CG 64) and served as Weapons Officer and Combat Systems Officer until January 2008. His tours ashore include instructor duty at the United States Naval Academy as a member of the Leadership, Ethics, and Law Department, and a student at the Naval Command and Staff College at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. He also served as a long-range operational planner at the ISAF Joint Command in Kabul, Afghanistan from July 2009 until July 2010.

Volpe is a native of (b) (6) and makes his home in (b) (6).

Hill has taken orders for the Executive Assistant to Commander 6th Fleet in Naples, Italy.

A native of (b) (6), Lt. Cmdr. Joel Rodriguez, recently joined the ship as executive officer. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aerospace Engineering.

He has served at sea in guided missile cruisers, a guided missile frigate and a mine warfare ship. As a Division Officer he assigned as Electrical Officer and Auxiliaries Officer in USS Port Royal (CG 73) from 1999 to 2001 and as Fire Control Officer in USS Kauffman (FFG 59) from 2001 through 2002. Following Department Head School in late 2005, he served as Engineer Officer in USS Guardian (MCM 5) in Sasebo, Japan, and USS Normandy (CG 80) in Norfolk, Virginia.

At sea, he most recently served in the U.S. Seventh Fleet Staff in USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) from 2009 to 2011.

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USS Taylor Celebrates 29th Birthday

Posted: December 5, 2012 - 6:24pm

By Ensign Caltyn Levinson
USS Taylor PAO

The crew of USS Taylor (FFG 50) celebrated the birthday of the guided missile frigate while underway in support of IDCERTX 13-2. The crew took a break from their daily activities to gather on the flight deck, pay tribute to Cmdr. Jesse Junior Taylor, the ship's namesake, and have some birthday cake. USS Taylor is a 4,100 ton, 453-foot-long, Oliver Hazard Perry class guided missile frigate, commissioned on Dec. 1, 1984. The commissioning was sponsored by Commander Jesse Junior Taylor's widow, (b) (6). Taylor celebrates her 29th year of commissioned service. "Our namesake, Commander Jesse Junior Taylor, made a courageous decision to try to save a downed pilot even though it was not assigned mission," said Ensign (b) (6). "He is the reason Taylor's motto is Proud Defender."

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USS Taylor Visits Port Everglades

Posted: December 12, 2012 - 7:25pm

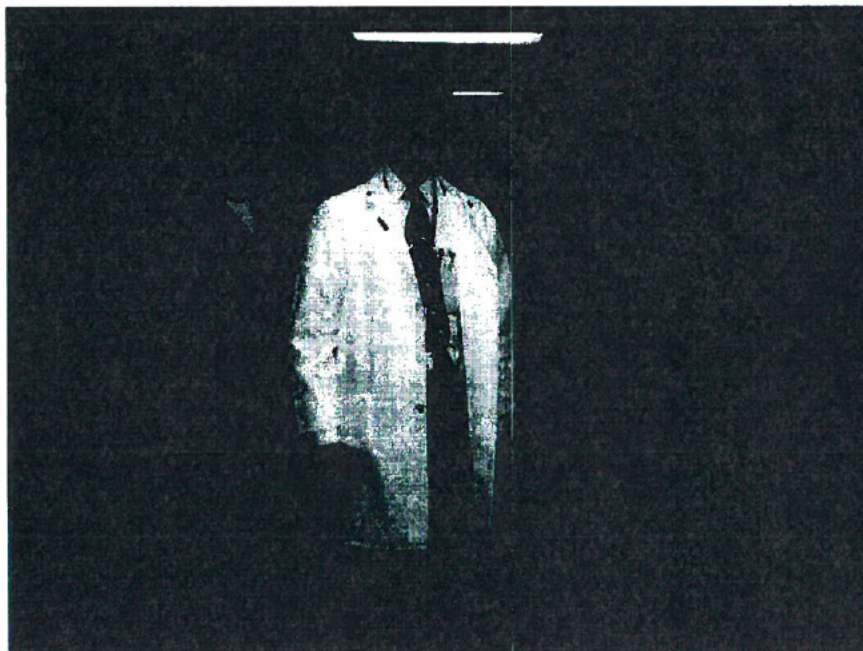


Photo courtesy of USS Taylor

Crew members from USS Taylor (FFG 50) visit the Bruce W. Carter Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Hospital in Miami, FL. PFC Bruce W. Carter is a Vietnam-era Marine who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his selfless and heroic actions in defense of his fellow Marines in the Quang Tri Province during combat operations in 1969. The Proud Defenders met with Dr. Alberto A. Martinez-Ariza, MD, head of the Spinal Cord Center as well as numerous veterans throughout the hospital. From left: Volpe, Sonar Technician (Geographical) 2nd Class (b) (6), Dr. Martinez-Ariza, Fire Controlman 1st Class (b) (6), Ensign (b) (6), and Command Master Chief Joseph D. Gardner.

By Ensign Caitlyn Levinson

USS Taylor PAO

USS Taylor (FFG 50) conducted an eventful, high priority port visit in Port Everglades, Florida from Dec. 4-7.

The Proud Defenders participated in multiple community events, staying busy while interacting with the Fort Lauderdale Navy League, Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station Museum, Bruce W. Carter Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Hospital, and Joe Dimaggio's Children Hospital.

The crew attended the 67th Flight 19 Memorial Ceremony, held annually by the Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station Museum. Flight 19, commonly referred to as "The Lost Patrol", was the designation of five TBM Avenger torpedo bombers that disappeared on Dec. 5, 1945, during an overwater navigation training flight from Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale, Florida. All 14 airmen on the flight were lost, as were all 13 crew members of the lost PBM Mariner flying boat which conducted a search and rescue mission to attempt to recover "The Lost Patrol."

Taylor's Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Dennis J. Volpe, was the ceremony's guest speaker. The Mayor of Fort Lauderdale, John P. Sieler, numerous World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans were in attendance to include one of the last of the Tuskegee airmen. The Officers and crew enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the impressive collection of veterans present at the ceremony.

"We were honored to spend part of our time in Port Everglades commemorating part of our Naval History," said Boatswain Mate 2nd Class (b) (6).

(b) (6) had the honor of ringing the bell for all of the names of the Flight 19 and PBM Mariner aircrew members who lost their lives.

The Proud Defenders also spent time at the Bruce W. Carter Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Hospital in Miami, Florida and the Joe Dimaggio's Children Hospital in Fort Lauderdale. The Veteran's Home visit provided the Officers and crew the opportunity to interact with a large number of veterans from World War Two, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm as well as gain a better understanding of the services available from the Veteran's Administration. The Children's hospital visit and the time spent with the children was a great experience for all of the Proud Defenders who participated.

"It was clear that the employees and doctors we met at the VA Hospital cared a lot about their work and their patients," said Sonar Technician (Geographical) 2nd Class (b) (6). "It was great to see dedication in caring for veterans that were dedicated to the country."

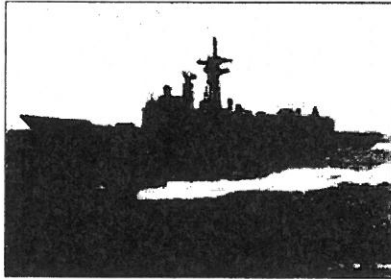
USS Taylor (FFG 50) is stationed in Naval Station Mayport, and is assigned to Commander Destroyer Squadron 14.

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USS TAYLOR LEAVES OCEAN SHIELD TO HEAD HOME



Retweet



Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50)

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass

Communication Specialist 1st Class

Edward Kessler/Released)

22 Aug 2012

After more than 5 intensive and rewarding months of patrolling in the waters off the Horn of Africa, the NATO counter piracy task force said farewell to USS Taylor.

"When Operating in the Gulf of Aden, USS Taylor has made an excellent contribution. She was completely dedicated to the counter piracy mission. Nearing her 30th year in commission, it is impressive to see a ship achieving a continuous high readiness state, eager to take any task given. The waters off Somalia offer a challenging environment. Heat, sandstorms, few logistic stops, constant vigilance. Taylor met the challenge and more", states Commodore Ben Bekkering.

As part of the multinational maritime force, the USS Taylor was deployed as part of the NATO task force from 7 May until 19 August in the waters surrounding the Horn of Africa. USS Taylor will now begin her transit home. She is expected back in her homeport, Mayport in mid September after a 7 month deployment.

The TAYLOR Tradition



Crest: The wings represent Commander Taylor's service as a Naval Aviator. The scarlet lightning flash refers to his service as an Aviation Radioman as well as to his relentless attacks on enemy gun positions during the rescue attempt which cost him his life. The gold cross represents the Navy Cross awarded posthumously for his heroism. The crossed swords represent the officers and enlisted personnel of the U.S. Navy who have given their lives around the globe as Proud Defenders of freedom and their country.

Shield: The Blue Shield represents the U.S. Navy and the oceans of the world on which it sails. The chevron refers to Commander Taylor's Naval career; its three segments representing the three conflicts during which he served - World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam. The two gold stars represent the two previous U.S. Navy destroyers which have borne the name TAYLOR. The first Destroyer, DD-94, was laid down in 1917 at the Mare Island Navy Yard and was stricken from the Navy list in 1938. The second Destroyer, DD-468, was laid down in 1941 at Bath Iron Works and earned a total of 23 Battle Stars for action in World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam. She was stricken in 1969. The sea lion refers to Commander Taylor's courage and selfless dedication to duty. The sea lion holds a trident, traditionally the symbol of sea power, to further symbolize the three aspects of modern naval warfare in which TAYLOR is a potent adversary - subsurface, surface, and air. The use of silver and scarlet with the traditional blue and gold of the U.S. Navy represents Commander Taylor's shining ideals and gallant self-sacrifice in defense of a fellow aviator.

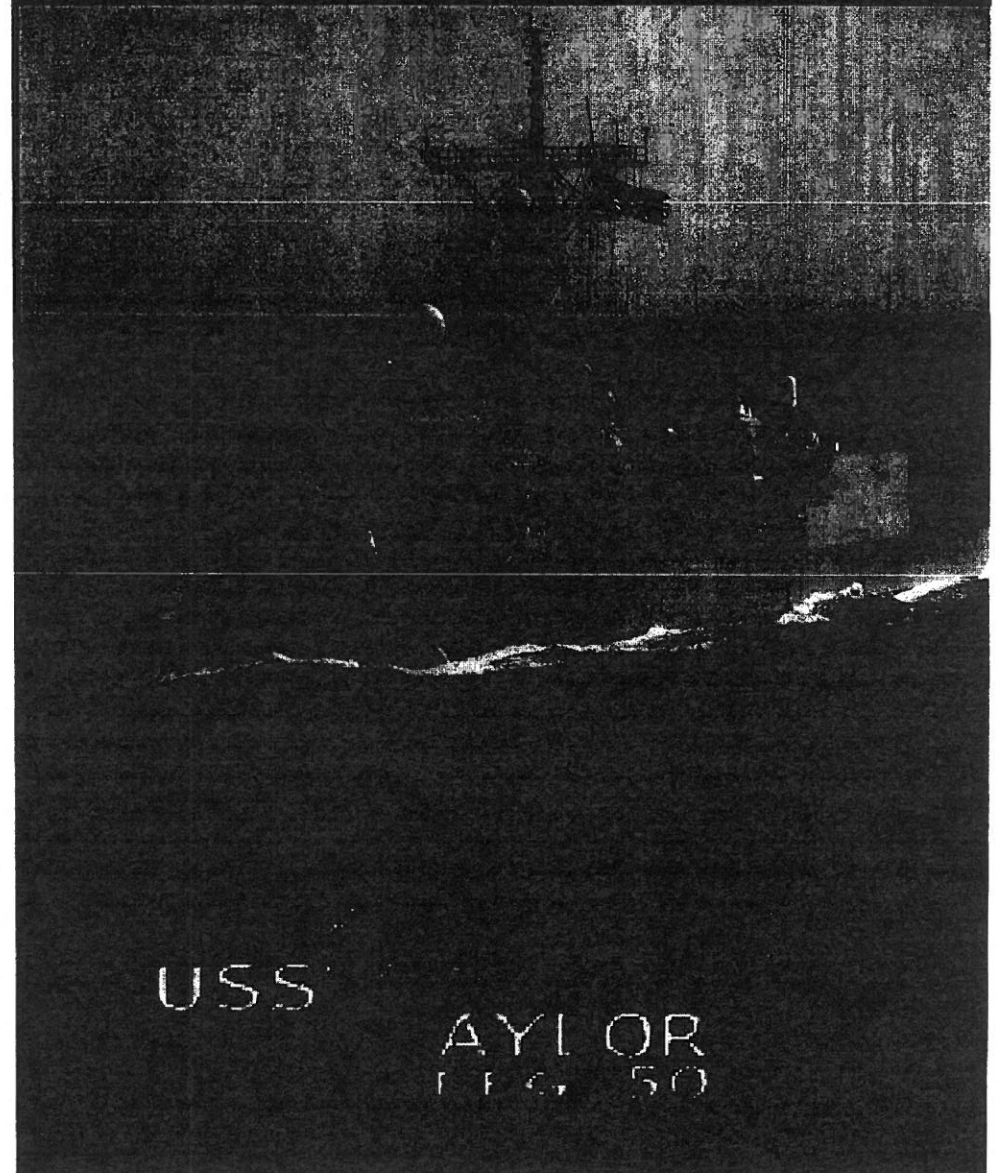
Keel Laid: May 5, 1983

Launched: November 5, 1983

Commissioned: December 1, 1984

Builder: Bath Iron Works, Bath, Maine

Welcome Aboard



TAYLOR Namesake



Commander Jesse Junior Taylor, USN

USS TAYLOR (FFG 50) named for the late Commander Jesse Junior Taylor, USN. Commander Taylor was born in Wichita, Kansas on 16 January 1925. He enlisted in the Navy in October 1942 and served as an Aviation Radioman until the end of World War II.

During the Korean conflict, he returned to the Navy as a Naval Aviator and in May 1952 received his commission as an Ensign. He was promoted to Lieutenant Commander while serving with VF-174.

In July 1965, Taylor was assigned to Air Wing 16 aboard the attack carrier USS ORISKANY (CVA 34) and sailed to the Western Pacific. He flew 16 missions between September and November earning an Air Medal with gold star (in lieu of second award).

On 17 November 1965, Taylor was flying his Skyraider during attacks on a key bridge near the North Vietnamese port of Haiphong. Ground fire had downed one of the other US Navy Aircraft and its pilot had ejected in a heavily defended area.

CDR Taylor heard the radio transmission describing the pilot's plight and made a courageous decision. Although it was not his assigned mission, he took command of the rescue effort. Taylor proceeded to the scene and found the pilot in his parachute harness in shallow water. To cover the approach of a rescue helicopter, CDR Taylor attacked the anti-aircraft gun sites despite the fact that his own plane had sustained damage. The storm of enemy fire made it impossible for the helicopter to rescue the man on the ground. Meanwhile, due to fire in his own aircraft, CDR Taylor was forced to break off from his attacks. Rather than abandon his plane in enemy territory, he ditched the plane in the Gulf of Tonkin.

For his heroic determination to save a fellow pilot, even at great risk to his own life, Commander Taylor was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross.

Commanding Officer



Commander Jeremy R. Hill, USN

CDR Jeremy Hill was born in (b) (6). He graduated from the United States Naval Academy and received his commission in 1995.

His first tour of duty was aboard USS SCOTT (DDG 995), where he served as Ordnance Officer and later, the Engineering Training Officer. In February 1998, he received orders to USS CARR (FFG 52), where he served as Ordnance Officer.

In May 2000, CDR Hill reported to USS DEYO (DD 989) and served as Combat Systems Officer. He then transferred to USS CORMORANT (MHC 57) in December 2001 and served as Executive Officer.

His next assignment was to the U.S. Naval War College, where he completed a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies and Joint Professional Military Education Phase I (JPME I) in March 2005. He completed his Joint Professional Military Education Phase II (JPME II) at the Armed Forces Staff College.

In November 2005, CDR Hill reported to USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19), Seventh Fleet's Command Ship, as Executive officer. CDR Hill recently completed his tour as Executive Officer on USS TAYLOR (FFG 50) April 2011.

CDR Hill's tours ashore include Deputy, Seabasing Branch in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Assessment Division N81 and Chief of Naval Operation's Strategic Studies Group XXIII.

CDR Hill's personal awards and decorations include: the Meritorious Service Medal (w/1 star), Navy Commendation Medal (w/3 stars), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (w/2 stars), and various service awards.

